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Message Text

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ACTION INR-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 ICA-11
/066 W
----------001301 142107Z /63
R 131233Z APR 78
FM AMCONGEN NAPLES
TO AMEMB ROME IT
INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 6004
AMCONGEN MILAN IT
AMCONSUL PALERMO IT 145
AMCONSUL GENOA IT 116
AMCONGEN FLORENCE IT
USDOCOSOUTH

C O N F I D E N T I A L NAPLES 0694
USDOCOSOUTH FOR INTAF
E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINT, IT
SUBJECT: FUTURE ROLE AND BIO DATA ON NAPLES PCI MAYOR VALENZI
REF: NAPLES 644
SUBSEQUENT TO SENDING REFTEL I HAVE THOUGHT ABOUT MY CASUAL EX-
CHANGES WITH PCI MAYOR VALENZI AT CEREMONIAL EVENTS, THE WAY HE
HANDLES HIMSELF AT THESE AS WELL AS ON OTHER OCCASIONS WHAT PEOPLE
SAY ABOUT HIM AND WHAT HE HIMSELF SAYS. ADDING EVERYTHING TO-

PAGE 02 RUFRSGG0059 C O N F I D E N T I A L
GETHER I CONCLUDE THAT HE WILL REMAIN A COMMUNIST TO BE RECKONED
WITH LOCALLY WHETHER OR NOT HE IS REINSTALLED AS MAYOR. MY CONCLU-
SION ALSO TAKES INTO ACCOUNT THE FACT THAT VALENZI HAS CONSIDERABLE
POWER OVER THE APPOINTMENTS OF PERSONNEL, ASSIGNMENT OF TASKS AND
LOCAL PCI STRATEGY. DEFERENCE ACCORDED HIM BY HIS "COMPAGNI", HIS
CALM SELF-ASSURANCE AND HIS ABILITY TO BEAT BACK AN EFFORT BY THE
BERLINGUISTS TO REPLACE HIM ARE ADDED CONFIRMATION OF HIS INFLUENCE.
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I SHOULD ALSO OFFER THE OBSERVATION THAT HIS DEALINGS WITH THE SOVIET
AMBASSADOR ALSO MARK HIM AS A KREMLIN MAN IN NAPLES. HIS DISARMING
NEAPOLITAN MANNER SERVES HIM WELL IN MASKING HIS KREMLIN LOYALTIES.
IT ALSO HELPS HIM TO GLOSS OVER HIS INABILITY TO ACHIEVE MEANINGFUL
PROGRESS FOR THE CITY.
BIOGRAPHIC DATA: MAURIZIO VALENZI WAS BORN IN TUNIS NOVEMBER
1909; STUDIED TWO YEARS AT THE UNIVERSITY OF ROME 1928-29; TRIED HIS

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HAND AT PAINTING 1930-31 AFTER WHICH HE RETURNED TO TUNIS; JOINED
THE PCI IN 1936 AND FOUNDED THE DAILY NEWSPAPER "THE ITALIAN IN
TUNIS"; MOVED TO PARIS IN 1937 WHERE HE BECAME A REPORTER FOR "THE
VOICE OF THE ITALIANS" PUBLISHED BY ITALIAN ANTI-FASCIST REFUGEES;
RETURNED TO TUNIS AT THE OUTBREAK OF WWII WHERE HE BECAME AN ACTIVE
ANTI-FASCIST; WAS ARRESTED IN 1941 AND FIRST CONDEMNED TO DEATH AND

PAGE 03 RUFRSGG0059 C O N F I D E N T I A L
THEN LIFE IMPRISONMENT; FREED BY THE ALL CREDITS THE
AMERICANS FOR SAVING HIM FROM EXECUTION BY THE NAZIS) HE CAME TO
NAPLES IN JANUARY 1944 WHERE HE FIRST BECAME HEAD OF THE NATIONAL
LIBERATION COMMITTEE AND THEN VICE SECRETARY OF THE PCI PROVINCIAL
FEDERATION; IN 1952 HE WAS ELECTED PCI PROVINCIAL COUNCILOR; IN 1953
AND 1958 HE WAS ELECTED SENATOR; IN 1960 HE WAS ELECTED PROVINCIAL
COUNCILOR AND IN 1963 A SENATOR AGAIN; CITY COUNCILOR SINCE 1964,
HE WAS ELECTED MAYOR ON SEPTEMBER 18, 1975; HE AND HIS GIUNTA RE-
SIGNED APRIL 5, 1978 BUT HE HAS A GOOD CHANCE OF BEING REELECTED'
AT 68 VALENZI HAS LOST SOME OF HIS FLAIR AND HAS NOT SCORED ANY
NOTABLE SUCCESSES. BUT AS NOTED ABOVE THESE ARE MASKED &Y HIS DIS-
ARMING NEAPOLITAN MANNER AND SELF-ASSURANCE. COLANTONIO.

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